Unemployment scenario

851. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present unemployment scenario;

(b) the growth of unemployment since introduction of the structural reforms; and

(c) the details of the effective steps taken by Government to increase employment opportunities especially in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) As per the latest (1999-2000) Labour Force Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, out of a labour force of 406 million around 397 million were employed and the remaining 9 million were unemployed as per the Usual Status Approach. The total number of unemployed which was of the order 7.5 million during 1993-94 has marginally gone up to 9 million during 1999-2000.

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The Plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment. The approach to the Tenth Plan has recognized the importance of providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy for the Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of the those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities.

Agricultural workers in Punjab

†852. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have conducted any survey for determination of the existing number of the agricultural workers in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof in respect of male, female and child labourers, separately; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.